



The effect of r -process enhancement in binary CEMP- s/r stars

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About half of carbon and s -process enhanced metal-poor stars (CEMP- s) show a high r -process enrichment (CEMP- s/r), incompatible with a pure s -process contribution. CEMP- s stars are of low mass ($M < 0.9 M_{\odot}$) and belong to binary systems. The C and s -process enrichment results from mass transfer by the winds of the primary AGB companion (now a white dwarf). The nucleosynthesis of the r -process, instead, is believed to occur in massive stars exploding as Supernovae of Type II. The most representative r -process element is Eu (95% of solar Eu).

We suggest that the r -process enrichment was already present by local SNII pollution in the molecular cloud from which the binary system formed. The initial r -enrichment does not affect the s -process nucleosynthesis. However, the s -process indicators [hs/l s] (where l s is defined as the average of Y and Zr; hs as the average of La, Nd, Sm) and [Pb/hs] may depend on the initial r -enhancement. For instance, the hs-peak has to account of an r -process contribution estimated to be 30% for solar La, 40% for solar Nd, and 70% for solar Sm. A large spread of [Eu/Fe] is observed in unevolved halo stars up to [Eu/Fe] ~ 2 . In presence of a very high initial r -enrichment of the molecular cloud, the maximum [hs/Fe] predicted in CEMP- s/r stars may increase up to 0.3 dex. Instead, the spread of [Y,Zr/Fe] observed in unevolved halo stars reaches a maximum of only ~ 0.5 dex, not affecting much the predicted [l s /Fe]. This is in agreement with observations of CEMP- s/r stars that show an observed [hs/l s] in average higher than that observed in CEMP- s . Preliminary results are presented.

1. Introduction

It is commonly believed that the *s*- and *r*-processes derive from separate astrophysical sites [1]. The nucleosynthesis of the *s*-process occurs in stars of low mass ($1.3 \leq M/M_{\odot} \leq 8$) during their thermally pulsing asymptotic giant branch (TP-AGB) phase. The main neutron source is the $^{13}\text{C}(\alpha, n)^{16}\text{O}$, which burns radiatively at $T \sim 0.9 \times 10^8$ K during the interpulse period in the region between the H- and He-shell (He-intershell). A second neutron source, $^{22}\text{Ne}(\alpha, n)^{25}\text{Mg}$, is marginally activated at the bottom of the recurrent convective thermal instability (thermal pulse, TP) in the He-intershell, mainly affecting the abundance at the branching points that are sensitive to temperature and neutron density. The *s*-process elements are mixed with the surface during the third dredge-up (TDU) episodes, in which the convective envelope engulfs part of the He-intershell, after the quenching of a TP. We refer to the reviews by [2, 3] for major details on the AGB nucleosynthesis.

Instead, the physical environment for the *r*-process is still unknown, although SNII are the most promising candidates. For elements from Ba to Bi, observations of very metal-poor stars with high *r*-enhancement (e.g., CS 22892–052 [4]) show an abundance distribution well reproduced by a scaled solar *r*-process residual contribution [5]. Instead, lighter neutron capture elements with $Z \leq 47$ show values lower than the scaled solar-system *r*-process [6, 7]. The nucleosynthesis site(s) and the exact contributions from different primary processes to Sr, Y, Zr is highly debated [8, 9, 10, 11, 12], although also related to massive stars. A large spread is observed for [Eu/Fe] and for [Sr,Y,Zr/Fe] in unevolved halo stars. For [Fe/H] < −2, different ranges are observed for Eu and Sr, Y, Zr: $-1 \leq [\text{Eu/Fe}] \leq 2$ with an average around 0.5 dex, while $-1 \leq [\text{Sr,Y,Zr/Fe}] \leq 0.5$ with an average around 0 dex [8, 12]. This may be interpreted as a signature of incomplete mixing in the gas cloud from which these stars have formed [13, 14], as well as an indication of different and uncorrelated primary process contributions.

In the last years, a quite large number of carbon and *s*-process enhanced metal-poor (CEMP-*s*) stars have been detected. CEMP-*s* are main-sequence/turnoff or giants of low mass ($M < 0.9 M_{\odot}$). The most plausible explanation for their peculiar high *s*-element abundances is mass transfer by stellar winds from the most massive AGB companion (now a white dwarf). About half of these CEMP-*s* stars are also highly enhanced in *r*-process elements (CEMP-*s/r*). The observed *r*-enhancement in these stars reflects the observations of unevolved Galactic stars at low metallicity. CEMP-*s/r* stars show abundance patterns incompatible with a pure *s*-process nucleosynthesis. While a pure *s*-process predicts $[\text{La/Eu}] \sim 0.8 - 1.1$ (where La and Eu are typical *s*- and *r*-process elements, respectively), CEMP-*s/r* stars show $0.0 \leq [\text{La/Eu}] \leq 0.4$, with [La/Fe] and [Eu/Fe] up to ~ 2 dex. Different scenarios have been proposed in the literature to explain the origin of CEMP-*s/r* (e.g., [15, 16]).

We suggest that the molecular cloud from which the binary system formed was already enriched in *r*-process elements by local pollution of SNII ejecta [7, 18]. This hypothesis is supported by numerical simulations by [17], who found that SNII explosion in a molecular cloud may trigger the formation of binary systems. These simulations may explain the very high fraction of CEMP-*s/r* ($\sim 50\%$) among the CEMP-*s*.

We present here a preliminary analysis of a comparison between AGB theoretical predictions and spectroscopic observations of CEMP-*s* and CEMP-*s/r* stars. A detailed discussion will be

presented in Bisterzo et al. (in preparation).

2. Results

Among CEMP-*s* stars in the literature, we selected only those with Eu detection. About half of them are CEMP-*s/r*.

In Fig. 1, we analyse the *s*-process indicator [hs/ls] (where ls = Y, Zr and hs = La, Nd, Sm) versus metallicity, by comparing CEMP-*s/r* and CEMP-*s* observations with AGB models of initial mass $M = 1.3 M_{\odot}$ (left panel) or $1.5 M_{\odot}$ (right panel). AGB models are described by [19] (updated by [20]). Starting from the case ‘ST’ defined by [19, 5], a range of ^{13}C -pockets is adopted by multiplying or dividing the ^{13}C (and ^{14}N) in the pocket by different factors. Theoretical lines in the Figure represent pure *s*-process AGB predictions for cases from ‘ST $\times 2$ ’ down to ‘ST/150’. For simplicity, in this preliminary analysis we distinguish between main-sequence/turnoff stars or subgiants having not suffered the first dredge-up (FDU) episode (diamonds in left panel), and late subgiants or giants (down-rotated triangles in right panel). The FDU involves about 80% of the mass of the star [2]. In case of binary systems with mass transfer like CEMP-*s* stars, this mixing strongly dilutes the C and *s*-rich material previously transferred from the AGB companion. This means that the [El/Fe] observed in a CEMP-*s* giant is about 1 dex lower than in the envelope of the AGB companion¹. CEMP-*s/r* stars are represented by big symbols while CEMP-*s* by little symbols. References are given in the caption of the Figures. In average, CEMP-*s/r* stars show higher [hs/ls] than CEMP-*s*. Moreover, some CEMP-*s/r* have an observed [hs/ls] ratio higher than the AGB predictions, but still compatible within the errorbars.

In Fig. 2, the observed [hs/ls] ratio is compared with AGB models of initial masses $M = 1.3 M_{\odot}$ (left panel) or $1.5 M_{\odot}$ (right panel) with a high initial *r*-process enhancement, $[\text{r/Fe}]^{\text{ini}} = 2.0$ dex (corresponding to $[\text{Eu/Fe}]^{\text{ini}} = 2.0$ dex). Only CEMP-*s/r* stars are shown in this Figure (big symbols). The choice of the initial *r*-process contribution to heavy elements was based on the *r*-process solar predictions [5, 20]. In particular, we applied an initial *r*-process contribution of 30% to solar La, 40% to solar Nd, and 70% to solar Sm. In first approximation we assumed a solar-scaled Y and Zr. This because the [Y,Zr/Fe] ratios observed in unevolved halo stars reach maximum values of about 0.5 dex, which little affects the [ls/Fe] in CEMP-*s*. The resulting maximum [hs/ls]_{s+r} with $[\text{r/Fe}]^{\text{ini}} = 2.0$ shown in Fig. 2 is about 0.3 dex higher than the predicted [hs/ls]_s with no initial *r*-enhancement. Note that the *s*-process index [hs/ls]_s is independent of the dilution factor if no initial *r*-enhancement is adopted (Fig. 1, right panel). Instead, in case of a high initial *r*-enhancement, the dilution factor affects [hs/ls]_{s+r}, because both stars belonging to the binary system are initially *r*-enriched. In Fig. 2, right panel, a dil = 1.0 dex is applied.

3. Conclusions

To explain the origin of CEMP-*s/r*, we hypothesised that the molecular cloud from which the binary system formed was already enriched in *r*-process elements. Subsequently, the *s*-process

¹To simulate mixing processes we define the logarithmic ratio ‘dil’ as $\text{dil} = \log \left(\frac{M_{\star}^{\text{env}}}{\Delta M_{\text{AGB}}^{\text{trans}}} \right)$, where M_{\star}^{env} represents the mass of the convective envelope of the observed star before the mixing, and $\Delta M_{\text{AGB}}^{\text{trans}}$ is the AGB total mass transferred (see [20]).

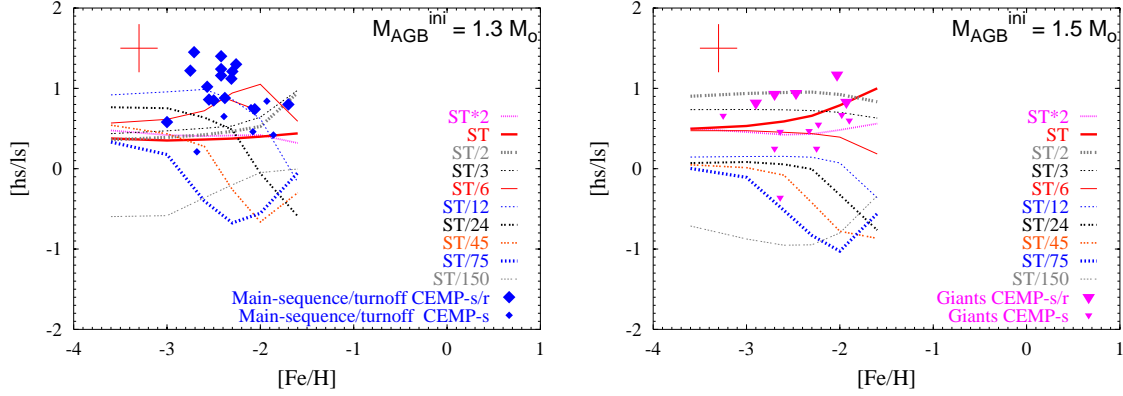


Figure 1: Left panel: the $[\text{hs}/\text{ls}]$ ratios observed in main-sequence/turnoff or subgiants CEMP-*s* and CEMP-*s/r* stars versus metallicity, compared with AGB models of initial mass $M = 1.3 M_{\odot}$ and a range of ^{13}C -pockets. References are [21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 16, 26, 27, 28, 29, 15, 30, 31]. Right panel: the $[\text{hs}/\text{ls}]$ ratios observed in CEMP-*s* and CEMP-*s/r* giants versus metallicity, compared with AGB models of initial mass $M = 1.5 M_{\odot}$ and a range of ^{13}C -pockets. Similar predictions are obtained by $M = 2 M_{\odot}$ models. References are [32, 22, 33, 24, 26, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38]. No initial *r*-process enhancement is assumed in both cases.

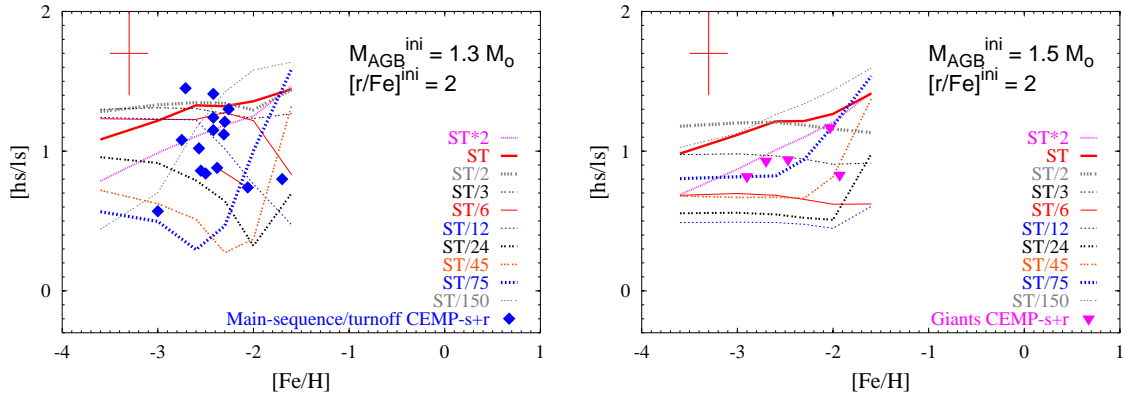


Figure 2: Left panel: the $[\text{hs}/\text{ls}]$ ratios observed in main-sequence/turnoff or subgiant CEMP-*s/r* stars versus metallicity, compared with AGB models of initial mass $M = 1.3 M_{\odot}$ and a range of ^{13}C -pockets. Right panel: the $[\text{hs}/\text{ls}]$ ratios observed in CEMP-*s/r* giants versus metallicity, compared with AGB models of initial mass $M = 1.5 M_{\odot}$ and a range of ^{13}C -pockets. An initial *r*-enhancement of $[\text{r}/\text{Fe}]^{\text{ini}} = 2.0$ dex is adopted in both cases. A dilution of 1 dex is applied to $M = 1.5 M_{\odot}$ models, which best accounts for giant CEMP-*s* or CEMP-*s/r*.

elements synthesised by the AGB companion are transferred by stellar winds on to the observed star. The *s*-process nucleosynthesis is not affected by the initial *r*-enhancement of the molecular cloud. However, for high *r*-process enrichment ($[\text{r}/\text{Fe}]^{\text{ini}} = 2$), one should account for the *r*-process contribution to solar La, Nd and Sm (30%, 40%, 70%). In agreement with the $[\text{Y}, \text{Zr}/\text{Fe}]$ observed in unevolved halo stars, we adopt solar scaled initial Y and Zr values. This increases $[\text{hs}/\text{ls}]$ by ~ 0.3 dex. This is sustained by observations in CEMP-*s/r* stars, which show an $[\text{hs}/\text{ls}]$ ratio in average higher than that observed in CEMP-*s*. Note that the $[\text{hs}/\text{ls}]$ observed in CEMP-*s/r* stars may be in agreement with pure *s*-process predictions within the errorbars. A deeper analysis will be given in Bisterzo et al., in preparation.

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